GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:638
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
WORKING GROUP ON IT
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Working Group on IT has submitted its report on July 29, 2000;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of recommendations accepted, implemented, under implementation and pending for implementation; and

(d) the steps taken or being taken by the Government for speedy implementation of the recommendation of the Group?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Summary of the recommendation of Working Group is placed at Annexure-I.

(c) and (d): The details are given in Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE - I

The salient points of the recommendations of the Working Group are as below:

- Establish IT infrastructure in 60,000 schools over a period offive years.

- Web enabled citizen oriented Government services.

- Hundred million Internet connection and one million IT Kiosks by 2008 to enable a common man to have access to Internet/IT Services.

- No licences and controls for setting up IT infrastructure and services.

- Promote development of Indian Language content over Internet.

- To launch mass awareness campaign through IT Yatras and other program.

- To set up a IT Mission for 5 years to carry out the program recommended in the report and follow up other recommendations of the report.

- Compulsory IT literacy for Government recruitment.

- Earmarking upto 5% budget for IT induction in Government.

- State Government Portals to help rural artisans and entrepreneurs.

- Internet Portal for one point Governement information and services.

- All Government information to be on Internet.

- All Government Payment on Internet.

- Results of Public examinations to be made available on Internet.

ANNEXURE - II

Following activities have been undertaken as per the recommendation of Working Group on IT for Massesby the Ministry of Information Technology.

1. MIT is working towards creating awareness programme of IT usage especially in the rural and remote areasand also implementing on pilot scale projects addressing to digital divide issues. The programme emphasizes on implementation of IT enabled applications in the areas such as information delivery, literacy, public empowerment & awareness, vocational training, cultural heritage, disabilities, health care & awareness using Telemedicine technology etc. On successful demonstration of such pilot scale inplementation the concept will be implemented through various ongoing National Programmes for countrywide implementation. Some of the existing schemes where IT applications will be implemented are like National Literacy Programme and Women and Child Care of M/o HRD, Challenges for Disabilities of M/o SJ&E, Rural Development, Health & Education of ISRO, Vigyan Prasar and Women Technology Park of DST etc.

2. Community Information Centers:

MIT has also undertaken a programme to establish 486 blocks in all the North East States including Sikkim to promoteInformation Technology and its applications. This project win be implemented in the next 2 years at an estimated cost of Rs. 220 crores as a part of the Agenda fOr the socio economic development of the North-Eastern Region.

A pilot project for setting up CICs at 30 block headquarters at sites selected by the state governments hasbeen completed and are being used by the community mainly for browsing the internet and utilising e-mail facilities. The school and college children are also using these facilities extensively. Amongst the other significant uses of CICs, a mention may be made of the following:

i) Interface between citizens and government.
ii) Connectivity to internet through NICNET, inter-alia, enabling web-browsing and e-mail facilities.
iii) Distance learning programmes.
iv) Familiarising use of computer systems, specially amongst school children.
v) Enabling e-commerce, operation of Call centres, medical transcriptions and such other IT-enabled services.
vi) Generation of employment opportunities.
vi) Facilitating public related services.

vi) Dissemination of information on plan initiatives, national programmes, disaster management system, public health awareness etc.

ix) Specialised medical consultation through centres specially earmarked for telemedicine systems.
x) Videoconferencing on complicated medical cases with eminent doctors from various medical disciplines.

3. IT Application for Braille Literacy for Visually Impaired:

A desktop computer has been adapted to produce books and literature in Braille, which was hitherto done manuallywith all its attendant pitfalls and delays. The system is capable of transcribing Indian languages and at present, apart from English.

In the process of replication after successful development, the Computerized Braille transcription systemhas been installed in the five different blind schools of Assam. Students are regularly using the system for education; local media has also given wide coverage to the Braille System installed at these schools. Similar systems have beeninstalled in two blind schools of Mizoram and one blind school of Sikkim, which are working satisfactorily. Presently Blinds schools of West Bengal are being covered.

4. Telemedicine Application for Remote Areas:

The project `Telemedicine for Tele-Healthcare during Mela/Festival/Disaster` was installed on trial basis during Maha Kumbha Mela in Allahabad starting from 6th January 2001 to 26th February 2001. The system was executedby Sanjay Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Medical Sciences, Lucknow, Departments of Information Technology & Health,Government of Uttar Pradesh and Online Telemedicine Research Institute, Ahmedabad. The performance of the Telemedicine system was very good and encouraging for the critical patient and about 170 patients were attended for various treatment including 64 Cardiology and 32 Radiology cases from SGPGI. This project is required for wide replicationfor Health Care of remote patients. Presently the system has been at the Medical collage at Cuttak which has been demonstrated to the Hon`ble state Minister of Health.

5. New initiatives:

Towards bridging digital divide, MIT is in the process of formulating projects for implementing IT Applications for social sector like:-

. Adult literacy
. Rural empowerment and creating awareness on social, education etc.
. Vocational training and employment generation for rural people
. Health Care advice for remote specialist
. IT enabled education

6. The first meeting of National IT Mission was held on October 4,2001. The matter regarding IT Kiosks, Vidhyarthi Net, Local content creation, IT Literacy for recruitment to Government Service, Re-engineering & Change management issuelinked to e-governance, upgradation of NIC communication link and taking up of pilot projects for bridging Digital divide etc., were discussed and action points framed.